



## Lockdown Policy and Procedures

### Rationale

As part of our Health and Safety policies and procedures the school has a Lockdown Policy.

On very rare occasions it may be necessary to seal off the school so that it is not able to be entered from the outside. This will ensure that pupils, staff and visitors are safe in situations where there is a hazard in the school grounds or outside the school in the near vicinity.

A lockdown is implemented when there is serious security risk on the premises due to, for example, nearby chemical spillage, proximity of dangerous dogs, serious weather conditions or attempted access by unauthorised persons intent in causing harm/damage.

### NaCTSO (National Counter Terrorism Security Office) **\*\*Guidance\*\***

In January 2016, NaCTSO provided the following advice to leaders of schools and other Educational Establishments for Reviewing Protective Security.

### Notification of Lockdown

Staff will be notified 'Lockdown procedures' are to immediately take place on hearing **3** short bursts of the school bell, or whistle if outdoors.

### Procedures:

1. These signals will activate a process of children being ushered into the school building if on the playgrounds as quickly as possible and the locking of the school's offices, fob connecting doors and all outside doors where it is possible to remain safe.
2. At the given signal the children remain in the room they are in and the staff are to ensure the windows and doors are closed/locked and children are positioned away from possible sightlines from external windows/doors. Lights, Smart boards and computer monitors to be turned off.
3. If in the Hall for assembly children are to remain seated in the centre of the hall. Staff are to close all windows and curtains and staff are to position themselves near the doors.
4. If in the Hall for PE staff are to lead the children to the EY unit.
5. Children or staff not in class for any reason are to proceed to the nearest occupied classroom and remain with that class and class teacher e.g. children using toilets when siren goes.

### **NO ONE SHOULD MOVE ABOUT THE SCHOOL**

6. Staff are to support children in keeping calm and quiet.
7. Staff are to remain in lockdown positions until informed by key staff e.g. Senior Leadership Team, Chair of Governors or a repeat of the 3 alarm bells.
8. As soon as possible after the lockdown teachers are to return to their base classrooms and conduct a roll call and notify the office immediately of any pupils not accounted for.

**Staff Roles:**

1. Front office staff are to ensure that their office(s) are locked and police called if necessary.
2. Head or office staff member locks the school's front doors and entrances.
3. Individual teachers/HLTAs/TAs lock/close classroom door(s) and windows. Nearest adults are to check exit doors in KS2/KS1/EYFS/.
4. Staff in Sycamore are to lockdown in this room.
5. Catering Staff are to lock back door to kitchen and turn off lights.

**INDIVIDUAL STAFF CANNOT SIGN OUT OR LEAVE THE PREMISES DURING LOCKDOWN WITHOUT PRIOR AGREEMENT OF THE HEADTEACHER BEFORE LEAVING****Communication with parents**

- If necessary parents will be notified as soon as it is practical to do so via the school's texting service
- Depending on the type and severity of the incident, parents may be asked NOT to collect their children from school as it may put them and their child at risk.
- Pupils will not be released to parents during a lock down.
- Parents will be asked not to call school as this may tie up emergency lines.
- If the end of the day is extended due to the lock down, parents will be notified and will receive information about the time and place pupils can be picked up from office staff or emergency services.
- A letter to parents will be sent home as the nearest possible day following any serious incident to inform parents of context of lockdown and to encourage parent to reinforce with their children the importance of following procedures in these very rare circumstances.

**Lockdown drills**

Lockdown practices will take place a minimum of once a year to ensure everyone knows exactly what to do in such a situation. Monitoring of practices will take place and debriefed to staff so improvements can be made.

**Bomb threats: Procedures for handling bomb threats- see Bomb Threats and suspect package guidance**

Most bomb threats are made over the phone and the overwhelming majority are hoaxes, made with the intent of causing alarm and disruption. Any hoax is a crime and, no matter how ridiculous or unconvincing, must be reported to the police.

Be alert, but not alarmed!

On receipt of a "bomb threat" - Dial 999 and police will respond. You should always consider their advice before a decision is taken to close or evacuate.

**Review**